

4 November 2024

FOI Ref 17377

**Request - You asked us the following:**

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Staffordshire Police.

Please may you provide me with: the latest information held on crime relating to tool theft in the Staffordshire area between October 2023 and October 2024 (or the most recent 12-month period you have available).

Information should include,

- 1) Total number of instances of tool theft reported across the year =
- 2) Total value of tools theft reported across the year =
- 3) Average value of tools theft reported within the year timeframe =
- 4) Any additional breakdown of where the tool theft took place (for example, number of thefts from vehicles, number from home, number from a workplace, number from a construction site) =

Please provide the information in electronic format, in either a csv or excel file. Alternatively, you can add the figures next to each numbered bullet point above in your reply.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

We received your request on 16/10/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

**The following exemptions have been applied:**

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.  
Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

**The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:**

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 15,500 occurrences. Unfortunately in the majority of crime reports, the 'property type' category is not completed, so the only way to establish the kind of property that was stolen in a particular incident (namely 'tools'), would be to carry out a very labour intensive manual trawl through thousands of crime reports. From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 1,291 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

**Advice and assistance**

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

**Next steps**

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

[foi@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk)

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information  
Central Disclosure Unit